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people. This formulation of principles—this terse statement in words of great truths which all of us have imperfectly thought out, this collecting of many illustrations—are the qualities in the book which give it substance.

The index is a model of completeness and will add vastly to the usefulness of the book for reference purposes. An idea of the completeness of the index may be gathered from the fact that there are over 100 page references to *Nomads*, twenty-five to *Fur Trade*, fifty to *England* and one hundred to *Boundaries*. There are forty-five double-column pages in the index.

If the reviewer were disposed to look for faults in the book they doubtless might be found. But the great service which Miss Semple has done for Geography, the years of work which the book has cost, the pardonable pride which we feel in knowing that an American Geographer did the work, all impel this reviewer, at least, to dwell upon the excellencies of the book rather than to seek minor points of weakness.

R. H. WHITBECK.

EDUCATIONAL

The Continents and Their People: North America: A Supplementary Geography by J. F. Chamberlain and A. H. Chamberlain. xi and 299 pp., maps, illustrations and index. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1911. 55 cts. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$.

Intended "to supplement and enrich the work offered by the text-books in geography." Although the authors in the preface say that "mere statement of fact is not geography" and believe that in their book "cause and consequence have been related" their product shows lack of grasp of the subject and ignorance of modern geographical methods, with the result that the very element of correlation which they claim for their book is excluded. Their indulgence in vague generalities also is unfortunate though typical of too many text-books in geography. The references to the Glacial Period and to various physiographic processes, even if conceded to be justifiable in a book intended for use in grammar schools, are purely casual and confuse rather than further the development of conceptions. The maps are of the usual uncritical type.

W. L. G. J.

Elements of Geology. By Eliot Blackwelder and Harlan H. Barrows. 475 pp., maps, illustrations and index. American Book Company, New York, 1911. \$1.40. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$.

The book makes a point of relegating volcanoes and earthquakes to the minor place where they belong, and of presenting its matter in a way to cultivate the reason. In good hands it will probably do so. The questions seem well planned for the purpose. Perhaps it is a little hard on other authors to ask them to admit that they have not had the same intention. Another feature is the introducing the historical part by an account of the chief animal and plant groups, which is a good thing.

Very noticeable in this part is the almost complete omission of cuts or descriptions of fossils. The material used is living, similar forms or restorations of the ancient ones. So far the pendulum has swung. Perhaps this is an over-emphasis, for the geologist is concerned with fossils not a little as mere fossils, marking strata, as they might do were they the mere sports of nature they were once believed to be. Without reference to the living forms that made them, they serve him to establish rock structures and displacements.

A geographer must be delighted with the simplicity of the scheme of North American topographic regions at p. 63. Most such classifications are far too complex. Equally will he welcome the maps of Tertiary mountain folds at p. 438 and Paleozoic ones at 372.

The respect shown the planetesimal theory is natural and acceptable, but when it is said of the nebular hypothesis that it is "improbable that the materials which became the planets could have separated from the equatorial portion of the nebula in the form of rings" the student will be justified in asking "Why not?". Of course he does not ask questions. He does not venture on excursions into reasoning. He sees his author is *against the hypothesis*, and follows the cue!

The summaries after igneous rocks and closing chapters V and VI are good. Similar ones would well close other chapters, too. Why not admit (p. 188 and 230) that streams and glaciers *deposit* as explicitly as it is stated that they wear down? In the Great Lake country, above all.

The changed groupings of Eras and Epochs may be necessary with growth, but for school texts it is unfortunate. Since the last text that has come to this reviewer's hand one geologic Era has disappeared—the Algonkian and eight new periods have arisen.

The text-book is a very good one. It lacks a geologic map, but for the rest is well illustrated with abundant good pictures and maps.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Commercial Geography. By Albert Perry Brigham. xv and 469 pp., 17 colored maps, 238 diagrams and illustrations, and index. Ginn & Company, Boston, 1911. \$1.30. 8 x 5 1/2.

Those who are interested in either the study or teaching of geography will welcome this new text from the pen of Prof. Brigham. The author's reputation for scholarly work is sufficient guarantee that in this respect the book is all that could be expected or desired. The treatment of the subject is, however, noticeably different from that in most of the other commercial geographies which have recently appeared.

Part I, an "Introduction to Commercial Geography," covers ninety-two pages, and is devoted to the treatment of wheat, cotton, cattle, iron and coal, and a brief statement of the "Principles of Commercial Geography." The first five of these topics cover the vegetable, animal and mineral products of greatest importance to the American student for whose use the book was primarily prepared. They are so treated as to put him at once into possession of the most significant facts concerning their production, transportation and manufacture. The fact that the people of the United States are greatly interested in all five of these fields of industry makes it possible to base the discussion upon conditions as found in our own country and to draw the illustrations chiefly from United States sources. Foreign countries in which these industries are important are, however, by no means neglected. The chapter on "The Principles of Commercial Geography," although brief, is particularly well placed, as it makes use of the information already obtained concerning the nature and distribution of these important products. The growth of the exchange of products is pointed out, and the constant improvement of transportation and manufacture, as a result of improved standards of living, is noted. The aid and protection which a government seeks to give its people is also commented upon. On the whole